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TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

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MEETING OF GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND EXECUTING AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
New York, 23-24 May 1991

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-CUM-RAPPORTEUR

1. Pursuant to decisions 5/7 and 6/3 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), the Meeting of Governments of Developing Countries with Executing Agencies of the United Nations Development System on TCDC was convened in New York on 23 and 24 May 1991.

2. H.E. Dr. Charles S. Flemming, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of the Working Group of the sixth session of the High-level Committee, served as Chairman and concurrently as Rapporteur of the Meeting.

3. The Governments of 41 developing countries were represented at the meeting, which was attended also by representatives from 22 organizations of the United Nations development system. The list of participants is contained in annex I.

4. The Meeting adopted its agenda and programme of work as contained in document TCDC/WP/1991/L.1.

5. The list of documents provided by the Special Unit for TCDC as background material for the Meeting is contained in annex II.

6. The Meeting reviewed the activities of the organizations of the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting TCDC since the adoption in 1978 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It noted the progress achieved and the constraints encountered by the organizations in this effort.

7. The representative of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Group of 77, advocated a shorter period between the initiation of projects involving the use of the TCDC modality and their implementation. He also felt the need for greater coordination between agencies at the field level, and visualized better organization of an effective and common response to development problems requiring TCDC solutions. That could be facilitated by further integration of the TCDC modality in UNDP's and the agencies' rules, regulations and procedures concerning the execution of projects.

8. In pursuance of that goal, he recognized the catalytic role of the Special Unit for TCDC, which extended also to the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to enhance TCDC activities. Similarly, the role of the focal points for TCDC of the United Nations agencies, including, inter alia, mobilization of extrabudgetary services for TCDC activities in their respective sectors, was recognized.

9. The question of the trend towards focusing TCDC programming exercises on fewer or single sectors was raised, as well as the extent of collaboration between UNDP resident representatives and United Nations executing agencies' representatives at the field level. It was affirmed that closer ties among United Nations representatives were important for the promotion of TCDC. A shorter gestation period for the programming exercises was also proposed. One representative addressed the question of strengthening the national focal point mechanisms. Several representatives emphasized the need to create a critical mass of TCDC activities at the national, regional and interregional levels for the growth and sustenance of those activities and, in that context, emphasized the important role that the United Nations agencies could play.

10. During the discussion, representatives of a number of United Nations agencies described some of their promotional and operational activities in support of TCDC. Several stressed the need for strengthening the implementation mechanism. They pointed out that the volume of TCDC activity financed from both their regular budgets and extrabudgetary programme resources had shown a constant increase. Several agencies described the importance they attached to the development of an adequate information base for TCDC, including the assistance of developing countries in preparing compendia of capacities and needs in their respective fields of competence. Several agency representatives drew attention to their work in supporting the creation of networks of developing country institutions, particularly in such fields as agricultural technology, various industrial development sub-sectors, population, health, environment and other programmes and educational innovation for development.

11. Further topics on which agency representatives commented included the special efforts being made to increase information dissemination about TCDC, the mobilization of funds for operational TCDC activities, and the need for increased national execution of TCDC activities. It was also proposed that an increased role be accorded to private sector and non-governmental organizations, including recognition of their potential as sources of funding for TCDC activities, that national TCDC focal points be strengthened, that

training programmes for staff of United Nations organizations dealing with TCDC be organized and that an increased volume of publications on the needs and capacities of developing countries for TCDC be issued, organized by country and sector. Finally, the initiatives being taken to make national organizations themselves increasingly responsible for organizing and managing the exchange of domestic development service volunteer workers were highlighted.

12. To enhance the use of the TCDC modality in the technical cooperation activities of the organizations, the Meeting adopted the following recommendations for consideration by the High-level Committee at its seventh session:

(a) The reports of the annual meetings of TCDC focal points of organizations of the United Nations development system should be considered by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) within the framework for inter-organizational coordination for such action as it deems appropriate, in accordance with the recommendation of the Second Meeting of Focal Points, held in New York in February 1988;

(b) A special meeting of TCDC focal points of the organizations, to be convened by early 1992, should consider draft guidelines, to be prepared under the auspices of the Special Unit for TCDC, for the review of TCDC policies and procedures in the organizations, taking into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC, as contained in document DP/1990/77;

(c) The draft guidelines thus prepared should be submitted through ACC to the High-level Committee for its consideration and adoption for subsequent implementation by the organizations;

(d) The implementation of the guidelines should be monitored by ACC on a regular basis;

(e) Information on any significant problems encountered in the process of implementation of the guidelines by the organizations should be provided by the Administrator in his biennial reports to the High-level Committee.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

1. The following 41 developing countries were represented at the meeting:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Benin
Brazil
Burundi
Chile
China
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ecuador
Egypt
Ghana
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
India
Jamaica
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Philippines
Romania
Saint Lucia
Suriname
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following were also represented:

Office of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs; Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator; United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); United Nations Volunteers programme; International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; World Bank; International Monetary Fund; International Maritime Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; World Intellectual Property Organization; International Atomic Energy Agency.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Title	Document No.
Progress made in the decade 1978-1988 in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	TCDC/6/2 and Corr.1 and 2, Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3, Add.3/Corr.1
Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	TCDC/7/2 and Add.1-3
Report of the Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System	TCDC/7/6
United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries: report of the Joint Inspection Unit	JIU/REP/85/3 (See A/40/656)
Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit for United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	TCDC/7/7
Views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC	TCDC/7/10 and Add.1
Report of the Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC	DP/1990/77